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Amendments to the Drawings

The attached New Sheet of drawings includes a new figure (FIG. 2), which shows an embodiment in which there is no stop ring 63, and the second end 62 of spring 48 bears directly on shoulder 64.

Attachment: New Sheet

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The specification has been amended to include an unintentionally delayed reference required under 37 CFR § 1.78(a)(2)(i). This information has already been recognized by the Office as shown by its inclusion on the official filing receipt, a copy of which is enclosed. Thus, in accordance with MPEP 201.11(III)(D), Applicant submits that no petition under 37 CFR § 1.78(a) or surcharge under 37 CFR § 1.17(t) is required to correct this priority claim. However, should any fees under 37 CFR §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be deemed necessary for any reason relating to this communication, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to a deposit account, as authorized in the Transmittal accompanying this Response.

Additional amendments to the specification were made solely to correct typographical errors, to provide references to new drawing FIG. 2, and/or to provide a consistent description in view of the inclusion of new drawing FIG. 2.

The amendments to claims 1, 3, 19, 33, and 48 were made solely to correct typographical errors.

New drawing FIG. 2 is fully supported by the claims (e.g., claim 3; etc.) and by the description in the specification (e.g., page 8, lines 15-17; etc.).

No new matter has been added. Upon entry of this Response, claims 1, 3, 5, and 7-48 remain present and active in the application.

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REMARKS**Information Disclosure Statement**

The present application is the National Stage of International Application No. PCT/US02/32633, filed October 10, 2002. Thus, in accordance with MPEP 609.03, Applicant believes that the documents cited in the International Search Report issued in the corresponding International Application have already been considered by the Examiner. However, since Applicant desires this information to be printed on any patent that may issue from the present application, the documents cited in the International Search Report have been included in the Information Disclosure Statement filed together with this Response. It is respectfully requested that this Information Disclosure Statement be entered and the cited documents be made of record.

Objection to Drawings

The objection to the drawings for failing to show an embodiment in which there is no stop ring 63 and the second end 62 of spring 48 bears directly on shoulder 64 has been obviated by the inclusion of new drawing FIG. 2. Accordingly, withdrawal of this ground of objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

The rejection of claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for lacking antecedent basis has been obviated by amendment. Accordingly, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

The rejection of claims 20, 22, and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Roberts et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,644,958) is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 20 recites a tool with a drive stud that has an adjacent portion and "an upset portion extending radially outwardly from the adjacent portion," such that one end of "a coil spring extending around the adjacent portion [reacts] against the upset

portion" (emphases added). As further explained below, *Roberts et al.* contains no teaching or suggestion of an upset portion of a drive stud against which a coil spring reacts, as required by independent claim 20.

Roberts et al.—a document that has previously been characterized in the present specification—describes a quick release mechanism in which an engaging spring 48 reacts at its upper end against a drive stud shoulder 52 (e.g., col. 4, lines 14-16). However, this drive stud shoulder 52 does not constitute "an upset portion" in the sense of the claimed invention but instead represents a larger profile surface as compared to an upset portion. The smaller profile of an upset portion offers distinct advantages, as noted in the specification:

In the disclosed mechanism of U.S. Pat. No. 5,644,958, the locking pin is biased downwardly by a spring that bears against a large shoulder 52 on the extension bar. This approach requires that the extension bar under the spring be machined or otherwise formed to a substantially smaller diameter than the relatively large-diameter portion of the extension bar immediately above the shoulder 52. [page 1, lines 15-20]

By eliminating the need for a deep shoulder of the type shown in U.S. Pat. No. 5,644,958, the diameter of the tool in the region of the spring is made more nearly equal to the diameter of the tool in the region above the spring. This feature makes possible a sleek design that is well-suited for use in tight and hard to reach spaces. [page 2, lines 1-5]

Inasmuch as *Roberts et al.* contains no teaching or suggestion of an upset portion of a drive stud against which a coil spring reacts, as required by independent claim 20, Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention is neither anticipated by nor would have been obvious in view of this reference. Accordingly, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The allowance of claims 1, 3, 5, 7-18 and 33-48 is noted with appreciation. (The allowance of claims 2, 4, and 6 is believed to be a typographical error since these claims were canceled at the time of filing.)

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The Examiner's indication that claim 19 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph is noted with appreciation. Since this ground of rejection has been obviated by amendment, as explained above, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 19 is allowable as presently written.

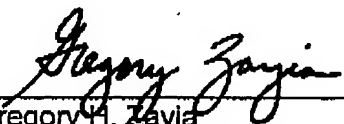
The Examiner's further indication that claims 21, 23-30, and 32 contain allowable subject matter is likewise noted with appreciation. However, since independent claim 20 is neither anticipated by nor would have been obvious in view of *Roberts et al.*, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 21, 23-30 and 32, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 20, are allowable as presently written.

Conclusion

In view of the Amendment and Remarks set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention is in condition for allowance. Early notification to such effect is earnestly solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that the above Amendment and Remarks do not put the claims in condition to be allowed, and that a discussion would be helpful to advance prosecution, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned agent directly at (312)-321-4257.

Respectfully submitted,



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